

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 717

Introduced by Assembly Members Cook and Ma

(Principal coauthor: Senator Yee)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Arambula, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Carter, Coto, Fong, Furutani, Gilmore, Hagman, Huffman, Krekorian, Lieu, Nestande, Portantino, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Torlakson, and Yamada)

(Coauthors: Senators Cedillo and DeSaulnier)

February 26, 2009

An act to amend Section 51221.4 of the Education Code, relating to public school instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 717, as amended, Cook. Public school instruction: social science: World War II: Filipinos.

Under existing law, the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, is required to include instruction in social science. Schools are authorized to include instruction on World War II and the American role in that war in their social science instruction. Existing law encourages that instruction to include a component drawn from personal testimony of American soldiers who were involved in World War II and those men and women who contributed to the war effort on the homefront. School districts are required to implement the encouraged instruction in a manner that does not result in the imposition of new duties or programs.

This bill would encourage instruction in social science for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to include instruction on World War II and the role of Filipinos in that war.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 51221.4 of the Education Code is
2 amended to read:

3 51221.4. (a) The Legislature encourages instruction in the area
4 of social science, as required pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section
5 51220, to include instruction on the Vietnam War including the
6 “Secret War” in Laos and the role of Southeast Asians in that war.
7 The Legislature encourages this instruction to include, but not be
8 limited to, a component drawn from personal testimony, especially
9 in the form of oral or video histories of Southeast Asians who were
10 involved in the Vietnam War and those men and women who
11 contributed to the war effort on the homefront. The oral histories
12 used as a part of the instruction regarding the role of Southeast
13 Asians in the Vietnam War and the “Secret War” in Laos shall
14 exemplify the personal sacrifice and courage of the wide range of
15 ordinary citizens who were called upon to participate and provide
16 intelligence for the United States. The oral histories shall contain
17 the views and comments of their subjects regarding the reasons
18 for their participation in the war. These oral histories also shall
19 solicit comments from their subjects regarding the aftermath of
20 the war and the immigration of Southeast Asians to the United
21 States.

22 (b) (1) The Legislature encourages the instruction required
23 pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51220 to include instruction
24 on World War II and the role of Filipinos in that war consisting
25 of an accurate history of the contributions of the Filipino American
26 veterans who fought courageously in the United States Army for
27 freedom and democracy in World War II, under the leadership of
28 General Douglas MacArthur.

29 (2) The Legislature *further* encourages the instruction described
30 in paragraph (1) to include a component drawn from personal
31 testimony, especially in the form of oral or video histories of
32 Filipinos who were involved in World War II and those men and

1 women who contributed to the war effort on the homefront. The
2 oral histories used as a part of the instruction regarding the role of
3 Filipinos in World War II are encouraged to do all of the following:

4 (A) Exemplify the personal sacrifice and courage of the wide
5 range of ordinary citizens who were called upon to participate and
6 to provide intelligence for the United States.

7 (B) Contain the views and comments of their subjects regarding
8 the reasons for their participation in the war.

9 (C) Solicit comments from their subjects regarding the aftermath
10 of the war and the immigration of Filipinos to the United States.

11 (c) This section shall be carried out in a manner that does not
12 result in the imposition of new duties or programs on the school
13 district. In that regard, the Legislature finds and declares that this
14 section does not mandate costs to local agencies or school districts
15 and that materials used to comply with this section shall be part
16 of normal curriculum materials purchased by school districts in
17 their normal course of business and purchasing cycles.